proposals for write-off of bad debts|losses of amounts upto Rs. 50,000|- may be disposed of by the Chairman|Managing Director with suitable lower limits for other top Executives/Committees of Executives. Proposals for more than Rs. 50,000 may be put up to Boards for consideration Write offs are to be considered after proper evaluation of circumstances of each case and only after all avenues of recovery have been exhausted. Banks have also been advised to evolve a strict time discipline so that irregular and sick accounts are discovered early, and the need for write-offs can be avoided as far as possible.

Problems of the jute industry

*218. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute industry at present is faced with a number of probems;

(b) whether Government have since identified the problems; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The jute industry is presently facing a number of problems, the most important of which are:—

(i) Decline in prices of jute goods;

(ii) Competition from synthetic substitutes;

(iii) Outdated machinery.

The Government is aware of the problems of jute industry and has been taking various steps from time to time to improve the performance of the industry. The steps taken by the Government include:—

(i) Purchase of jute goods by Government (DGS&D) from jute industry according to Palekar formula;

(ii) Providing higher cash compensatory support for export of jute goods;

(iii) Concerted efforts are being made to capture some global tenders for jute goods by offering competitive prices;

(iv) Two new constructions of jute and jute-based bags have been permitted for commercial use by Cement Industry;

(v) Efforts are being made to find out alternative uses of jute in packing tea, production of carpets, blankets etc.;

(vi) A buffer stock scheme of raw jute is also in operation so as to bring stability in raw jute prices;

(vii) Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme of Rs. 150 crores has been started with effect from 1st November, 1986;

(viii) A Special Jute Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores is being created for restructuring|re-opening|rehabilitation of jute industry as well as for development of jute agriculture.

Loan melas in West Bengal

*219. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of West Bengal had complained to the Central Government regarding the loan melas held in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the nature of the complaints made;

(c) whether it is a fact that CBI has conducted an inquiry in the matter; and

(d) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d)

The State Government of West Bengal had suggested to the Central Government regarding the manner of organising credit camps by nationalised banks. The State Government was of the view that they should be consulted about the location of the credit camp before it is organised. It was further suggested that all the representatives of the people of the area namely, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly and Panchayat functionaries as well as the State Government officials should be intimately associated with organisation of credit camps. The Central Bureau of Investigation has not conducted any enquiry into this matter.

Raising of Kashmir issue in United Nations by Pakistan

*220. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan had again raised the so-called Kashmir issue at the United Nations and its Committees, during September-October this year;

(b) if so, in what context and in what terms the issue was raised; and

(c) what was the Indian representatives' reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Relevant excerpts from the statements of Pakistani delegates are laid on the Table of the House.

(c) India exercised its right of reply Relevant excerpts from the statements of Indian representatives are laid on the Table of the House. (*See* statement below.)

Statement

Excerpts from the statement of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in the General Debate at 41st UNGA Session on 29th September, 1986.

"Pakistan has continued endeavours to foster good neighbourly relations with India. The understanding reached between the leaders of Pakistan and India last December not to attack each other's nuclear facilities was a welcome development in this context. We believe that with mutual goodwill the bilateral treaty on non-use of force could also be speedily concluded. This process, we hope will also lead to the achievement of a peaceful settlement of the dispute over Jammu & Kashmir on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement."

Text of the reference to Jammu & Kashmir in the statement of the Pakistan representative on self-determination in the 3rd Committee of 41st Session of UNGA on 11th October, 1986:

"On the subject of right to self-determination, my delegation could also like to draw their attention to the unresolved question of J & K. Our position on this issue is well known and does not require reiteration or elaboration."

Text of India's intervention in the General Debate in exercise of the right to reply on 29th September, 1986.

"The Simla Agreement signed between Governments of India and Pakistan in 1972 provides the basis for resolving all outstanding issues between the two countries through bilateral negotiations and peaceful means. We therefore, fail to understand the reference that has been made to the so-called Jammu & Kashmir question by the distinguished Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Our position is well known and needs no further clarification on the part of my delegation."